Library

STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1961

H. R. MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, of the
STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December 1961.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 4,580, a decrease of 350 on that for the year 1960, presumably due to changes in military personnel.

The total number of births was 56, there being no deaths of children under one year of age, and no maternal deaths during the year under review.

Deaths totalled 42, (48 in 1960-, giving a death rate of 10.63, which is lower than that for England and Wales at 12.00.

Principal causes of death were - 15 heart diseases (14 in 1960), 7 from cancer, (5 in 1960), 6 from vascular lesions of the nervous system, (11 in 1960), and 7 from other circulatory diseases were recorded.

One hundred and one cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 5 in 1960. There were 97 cases of measles, 3 cases of acute pneumonia, and one case of puerperal pyrexia.

There were two notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in the District during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Housing and Water Supply.

These matters are dealt with by the Public Health Inspector in his rport and which follows.

I commenced duty on 1st June 1961.

H. R. Morrison,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. H. R. Morrison, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector. C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Areaof District in acres	...	97.630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate	...	4,580
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,447
Rateable Value at 1st April 1961	...	£ 100,710
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 410. 0. 0.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1961, for half-year		9/6

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births

The number of live births registered during the year was 56, as against 72 in 1960. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is lower than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons.

Live births per 1,000 population, as adjusted by Comparability Factor

Still Births per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

	Live Births	Still births
1960 Startforth Rural District	18.47	13.90
1961 Startforth Rural District	15.71	00.00
1961 England and Wales	17.40	18.70

Analysis of Births

Live Births:-

		1960		1961	
		M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	40	28	28	27
Illegitimate	...	.	4	.	1
	Totals	40	32	28	28

Illegitimate Live Births = 1.79% of live births.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births = 00.00

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate live births = 00.00

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks)) = 00.00
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate(deaths under one week)) per 1,000 total live births

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births = 00.00

Still Births:-

	1960 M	1960 F	1961 M	1961 F
Legitimate ...	.	1	.	.
Illegitimate ...	.	.	.	.

Deaths

Maternal Mortality. No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year, as in 1960, 1959, 1958 and 1957.

Infantile Mortality. No children under one year died in the District during 1961, as against four in 1960.

Infantile Mortality comparisons per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1960	...	5.55
Startforth Rural District 1961	...	00.00
England and Wales 1961	...	21.40

Deaths from all Causes. During 1961 there were 42 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 48 in 1960. The death rate being lower than that for England and Wales.

Death Rate Comparisons. - per 1,000 population as adjusted by Comparability Factor.

Startforth Rural District 1960	...	11.29
Startforth Rural District 1961	...	10.63
England and Wales 1961	...	12.00

Causes of all Deaths - Compared with 1960

	1961 M	1961 F	1960 M	1960 F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	.	.	.	1
Tuberculosis, other. ...	.	.	.	.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	.	.	1	1
" Lung, bronchus	.	.	.	.
" Breast ...	.	.	.	.
" Uterus ...	.	.	.	.
Other malignant and Lympathic Neoplasm	4	3	2	1
Leukemia ...	.	.	.	.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	1	4	7
Coronary Diseases, Angina ...	7	1	5	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	.	.	.	.
Other Heart Diseases ...	5	2	1	3
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	3	2	.
Pneumonia ...	.	.	3	.
Bronchitis ...	.	.	1	.
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	.	.	1	.
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	.	.	1	.
Hypertension of Prostate ...	.	.	1	.
Congenital Malformations ...	1	.	.	.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	.	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	.	1	1	.
All other Accidents ...	2	.	2	.
Suicide ...	.	.	1	.
Totals	29	13	26	22

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes, Rates and Comparisons with previous year.

	per 1,000 population 1961		1960	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Cancer ...	7	1.53	5	1.015
Respiratory (no-tuberculosis)	.	.	5	1.015
Heart Diseases ...	15	3.27	14	2.84
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	.	.	1	.20
Tuberculosis - Non-Pulmonary	.	.	.	.
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	1.53	2	.40
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	1.31	11	2.23
Totals	35	7.64	38	7.70

Infectious Diseases. There were 101 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1961, as against 5 in 1960.

Analysis of infectious diseases and comparisons with previous year.

	1961 no. of cases	1960 no. of cases
Scarlet Fever ...	.	2
Acute Pneumonia ...	3	.
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	.
Measles ...	97	2
Non-paralytic poliomyelitis	.	1
Totals	101	5

Tuberculosis. Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in 1961.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. No deaths from this disease were registered in the District in 1961, as against one from this cause in 1960.

Vaccinations and Immunisations against Smallpox, Diphtheria and Pertussis.

The number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out in the District in 1961 are as follows:-

	under 5 years		over 5 years	
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster
Smallpox	52	4	5	27
Diphtheria	109	3	8	40
Pertussis	186		30	

Immunisations against Poliomyelitis. At the end of 1961 1,034 people had received three injections against poliomyelitis, and at the same date 144 children between the ages of 5 and 12 years had received four injections against poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946.

Sections 22, 23, 24, and 25. Care of Mothers and Young Children, Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by the District Medical Officer and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area: full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

The following number of visits paid to patients in the District by the Nurse Midwife during 1961 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1960:-

Category		1961	1960
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	1146	1477
Home Nursing	...	2616	2761
Health Visiting	...	2288	1841

Section 27. - Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver-Foreman, one Shift Leader and five Driver-Attendants.

Section 28. - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. - Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council and during 1961 20 cases received help, as compared with 13 in 1960, the analysis and comparison with 1960 being:-

Category		Cases		Hours	
		1960	1961	1960	1961
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	1	.	69	.
Chronic Sick	...	12	20	7085	5578
Sick Housewife	...	.	.	.	.
Tuberculosis	...	.	.	.	.
Totals		13	20	7154	5578

The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. C. D. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector, and I now thank him for his kind co-operation during the year and for the completion of this Report.

Nuisance Inspection.

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only	79
Total Number of Nuisances found	17
Number Abated by informal action..	16

Public Cleansing.

During the year a scavenging service operated throughout the area and only a very small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly, although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where a semi-controlled system is operated and Ministry of Health Recommendations followed so far as is possible. Two Karmier Refuse Vehicles and five men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £3,584. Os. Od.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.

Inspections	No. of Register.	No. of Inspections.
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	13	19
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	15
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	7	27

Cases in which Defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (a)Insufficient	2	1			

Outworkers

One outworker is registered for the making, etc, of wearing apparel.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of these are licensed to store ice cream for sale.

Three privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 179 visits for meat inspection were made during the year. The following tables shows the details of the carcasses inspected during the year.

The meat slaughtered was of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned a very small percentage of the whole.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	320	-	335	1 610	127	-
Number inspected	320	-	335	1,580	127	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	19	-	-	18	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	5.94	-	-	1.125	2.362	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Moveable Dwellings

During the year there was one licensed and one unlicensed caravan site both in the parish of Startforth, together with a small number of isolated caravans in various parts of the district.

The licensed site at Startforth is approved for a maximum of 175 caravans and during the year that figure has been attained on a number of occasions. The site is generally well conducted, although several extensions of the amenities provided are required to make the site comply with the conditions imposed by the Council under the 1960 Caravan Sites Act and some of these are now in hand.

Action was instituted during the year by the Planning Authority under the 1960 Act to achieve the discontinuance of the use of the unlicensed site at Startforth, and the Minister has made an Order for its closure at the end of 1962.

It is the Council's policy to issue site licenses for numbers not exceeding three holiday vans with a minimum of conditions compatible with the maintenance of hygiene, but for sites in excess of that number the conditions are based closely upon the model standards laid down by the Minister under Section 5 of the Act.

Some concern has been felt by the Council over one instance which has come to their notice of the Caravan Club's apparent failure to consult with the Planning Authority before issuing a certificate under Section 5 of the First Schedule of the Act.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council has disposal works of a satisfactory modern standard at Cotherstone, Romaldkirk and Mickleton, in each of which villages there is a satisfactory system of sewers.

Work on the construction of sewers and a disposal works for Barningham commenced during 1961 but further administrative difficulties held up the finalising of the scheme for Bowes and Startforth villages. It is now hoped that the latter of these will commence during 1962 and the former shortly thereafter.

Preparatory work on the schemes for Boldron and Ovington are now at an advanced stage and should be ready to start in 1963.

Water Supply

During the year the parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington, Barforth and Ovington were supplied by the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board and the parish of Startforth by the Barnard Castle Urban District Council. The Council operated undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, Holwick, Hutton Magna and Hunderthwaite.

Agreement was reached with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board over regrouping and arrangements made for the transfer of the Council controlled supplies to the Board on 1st April, 1962. Negotiations with the Board led to the laying of a water main in the Thorpe Hall/South Thorpe area and in the preparation of schemes for a supply to Rokeby and for the replacement of the village supply at Hutton Magna with water from the Board's trunk main.

During the year 21 samples of water were taken for Bacteriological examination of which 14 were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory. No samples for chemical examination were taken. Where an unsatisfactory report was received on a sample from a public supply an immediate investigation into the cause was made and immediate measures taken. Where an unsatisfactory report was received on a private water supply the persons concerned were informed and advice given as to appropriate measures to be taken.

869 houses are connected to the public water mains (with an estimated population of 2,950) and 583 houses are dependant on private supplies.

Housing

The Council owns eighty-six Council Houses, six of which were erected in the inter-war years. They also own four bungalows which were converted from the former Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital with assistance under the Housing Act, 1949, and eleven old people's bungalows. It is hoped to erect further old people's bungalows in the near future.

During the year applications have been received for standard improvement grants and sixteen grants were approved. Applications from property owners for discretionary improvement grants were received and considered on their merits. During 1961 six applications were approved.

Rodent Control

During the year a total of 26 treatments for the elimination of rats and mice were carried out using the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.